



Preface

During January 14–19, 2002, an International Conference on Number Theory was held at the CRM in Marseille, Luminy. The conference was dedicated to Professor Jean-Louis Nicolas for his 60-th birthday and retirement. Professor Nicolas has been on the Editorial Board of The Ramanujan Journal since its inception. At the conference it was suggested that the Ramanujan Journal should bring out Special Issues in honor of Professor Nicolas using some of the conference papers (after being refereed) as the nucleus. This suggestion received enthusiastic endorsement by all participants. Thus in these Special Issues, most of the papers are by participants at that conference. In addition, there are also contributions from mathematicians who have had a close association with Professor Nicolas, as well as papers from certain members of the Editorial Board of The Ramanujan Journal.

In his long career Professor Nicolas has worked on a variety of problems in Number Theory, and among these has made noteworthy contributions to the study of asymptotics of partitions. Thus these Special Issues begin with a paper by Professor András Sárközy entitled “Jean-Louis Nicolas and the partitions” and conclude with a paper by Professor Nicolas entitled “Some open problems”, which was the talk he gave on the last day of the conference.

Producing these Special Issues is our way of appreciating Professor Nicolas’ contributions to Number Theory and his service as Editor of The Ramanujan Journal. All papers in these Special Issues are dedicated to him in the hope and expectation that he will lead a long and healthy life and continue his productivity in Number Theory.

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